

NEWS RELEASE



STATE OF ALABAMA
Department of Industrial Relations
News For Immediate Release
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ALABAMA POSTS 4.7 PERCENT MAY UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA, June 20, 2008 Alabama's unemployment rate in May rose to 4.7 percent but remains below the comparable national unemployment rate, which increased to 5.5 percent. Alabama posted a 4.0 percent April unemployment rate and 3.5 percent in May 2007.

"Despite the jump in Alabama's rate, it has now been seven years since the state unemployment rate was higher than the U.S. rate," says Tom Surtees, Alabama Department of Industrial Relations director. "It's very likely this increase in May reflects those who just graduated from college and are out looking for work."

Over the year, there was a net gain of 8,500 wage and salary jobs in Alabama. The majority of the annual growth occurred in government (+4,600), professional and business services (+4,400), trade, transportation, and utilities (+2,000), educational and health services (+1,500), and construction (+1,300). Manufacturing (-6,100) experienced the majority of job losses.

The lowest county unemployment rates for May are: Shelby (2.7 percent), Madison (3.1 percent), and both Baldwin and Limestone (3.2 percent). The highest county rates for May are: Wilcox (13.7 percent), Chambers (12.6 percent), and Perry (9.4 percent).

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County unemployment rates, Metropolitan Area Unemployment Rates, and an Alabama map of county unemployment rates, are available at: <http://dir.alabama.gov>. Click on "Alabama Labor Market Information Division" under "Quick Links" & follow prompts.